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NOTES ON SOME FLORIDA WEEVILS

A small collection of Rhyncophora recently identified for the Department of Entomology of the Experiment Station by Mr. W. S. Blatchley supplies two new records for Florida and some new data on distribution within the state, on dates of appearance, and food habits. Most of the systematic collecting in the state has been done during the winter so that summer records are rather valuable. The numbers in parenthesis are those in Blatchley's and Leng's "Rhyncophora of N. E. America."

(34) *Araeocerus fasciculatus* DeG. The Coffee-Bean Weevil. Taken from a frosted avocado tree near Tampa; and on the calyx of a Japanese persimmon from which the fruit had fallen, Gainesville, May. Probably not the cause of the dropping of the persimmon. This insect feeds on dried seeds and evidently also on diseased and dying tissue. It is a serious pest of coffee in some parts of the West Indies. It is said to have originated in India but is now apparently thoroly established in Florida.

(127) *Epicaerus formidulosus* Boh. This is a very common weevil and one of considerable economic importance. It is common on cotton plants and has been mistaken for the boll weevil by a great many farmers, in spite of its larger size and spotted color pattern. It is sometimes very destructive to young pepper plants, which it punctures at or a quarter inch below the surface of the ground. In Nov. 1919 it "ruined a field of peas" at Leesburg. In Bul. 67, U. S. Bur. Ent., it is said to injure young tobacco plants. We have taken it also on velvet beans, Ironweed *(Vernonia)*, yellow jasmine, goldenrod and several other compositae, and during every month from April to November. Evidently a quite general feeder. We have no winter records.

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(153) *Tanymecus lacaena* Hbst. Captured in Gainesville, eating the leaves of *Baccharis*.

(177) *Eudiogogus rosenschoeldi* Fabr. was collected in October near Tampa by Mr. U. C. Zeluff, who writes: "On oak trees some of which were very heavily infested." This is the first record of this large handsome weevil from Florida. It also establishes a new host plant.

(217) *Hyperodes cryptops* Dietz. Gainesville, April 21. At "lizard's tail" *(Saururus cernuus)* in bloom. Said to be scarce.

(258) *Derelomus basalis* Lec. Said by Blatchley and Leng to be especially abundant on the dwarf papaw *(Asimina parviflora)*. We have taken it at Gainesville on wild plum in Feb., on velvet beans in July, and on blossoms of the button-bush *(Cephalanthus)*.

(411) *Tachypterus quadrigibbus* Say. The Apple Curculio. Branford, Fla., on cotton, a new host.

(434) *Anthonomus signatus* Say. This is the Strawberry Weevil which is quite a pest in some of the more northern states. It lays its eggs in the buds and then cuts the stem so that the bud withers and dies. It does not seem to attack strawberries in Florida but is abundant in the blossoms of the wild haw *(Crataegus)* in March.

(549) *Baris splendens* Casey. Reported only from thistle Feb.-April. We have taken it on thistle on Jan. 19, and on goldenrod, *Grindelia*, ironweed *(Vernonia)* and other composites, July-Sept. All records are from the heads of composites, evidently its preferred hosts.

(560) *Aulobaris ibis* Lec. On dog fennell and bee-balm *(Monarda)*, abundant in October. But also from "mayweed" and ironweed on July 4. All previous Florida records are in the fall.

(575) *Centrinus modestus* Boh. On goldenrod in Sept.

(577) *Centrinus albotectus* Casey. Said to be "scarce" at Sanford in April but abundant here during April and May on goldenrod, flebane daisy, lizard's tail, blackberry and haw blossoms. Evidently a spring insect only with us, but reported in July in New Jersey.

(579) *Centrinus perscillus* Gyll. Schon. Campville, Fla., "Feeding on Cotton"; Sanford Aug. 3, 1918, on *Cassia* sp.

(584) *Odontocorynus scutellum-album* Say. Common at Gainesville, on various composites as are most other records. Evidently a weevil of compositae.

(586) *O. selebrosus* Casey. On cotton, a new host plant.

(671) *Auleutes cruralis* Lec. Taken in a damp meadow along Hog Town Creek near Gainesville. Apparently the first record from Florida.

(748) *Conotrachelus coronatus* Lec. Collected in the same locality as the last. Described from Enterprise, Fla., and heretofore known only from there and Vero.

(760) *Chalcodermus collaris* Horn. Taken from corn at Gainesville by H. L. Dozier Aug. 16, 1916, and on cotton at Branford, Fla., by Mr. J. F. L. Lindsey. Both of these are new hosts. This species looks like its near relative, the cowpea pod-weevil, but the surface of the thorax is covered with a network of ridges instead of sunken dots.

J. R. WATSON.

NEW THYSANOPTERA FROM FLORIDA—VIII

J. R. WATSON

(Continued from page 30)

KEY TO NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF HETEROTHRIPS

I. Antennae with ten segments.................................*H. decacornis* Crawford.
II. Antennae with nine segments.
  a. Without circles of distal sensoria on antennal segment 4. *H. salicis* Shull.
  aa. Segment 4 of antennae with distal circles of sensoria.
    b. At least part of the abdominal tergites bordered with scales with fringed margins.
      c. Abdomen not pubescent.
        d. Prothorax twice as long as the head. U. S. *H. arisaemae* Hood.
        dd. Prothorax not twice as long as head. W. I. *H. borinquen* Hood.
      cc. Abdomen more or less pubescent.
        d. Abdomen sparsely pubescent.
          e. Whole antennae more or less yellow. Panama. *H. flavicornis* Hood.
          ee. Only segment 3 always yellow...........*H. lyoniae* Hood.
        dd. Abdomen more densely pubescent.
          e. Prothorax sculptured with anastomoxing lines. Western...*H. pectinifer* Hood.
          ee. Prothorax free of sculpture except for a few lines. *(H. azaliae* Hood) *H. aesculi* Watson.
    bb. Abdominal tergites fringed posteriorly with hairs which are not at all coalesced into scales. Abdomen closely pubescent.